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LETTER DATED 16 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 16 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing incursions by the Turkish armed forces and their violations of the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-24343 (E) 170996 170996 180996

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Annex

Letter dated 16 September 1996 from the Deputy Prime Minister/Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to my letter dated 7 August 1996, concerning the continuing incursions by the Turkish armed forces and their violations of the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq, I should like to inform you that the Turkish armed forces are continuing to carry out military operations inside the territory and airspace of Iraq under various pretexts, as is demonstrated by the following:

1. On 16 July 1996, Turkish combat aircraft and artillery bombarded the regions of Shirawan Mazin, Khawnah and Khakuk to a depth of 4 to 20 kilometres inside Iraqi territory, causing damage to private property.

2. On 17 July 1996, a party of Turkish journalists illegally entered Iraqi territory in the Zakho region and photographed the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline and pumping station.

3. On 18 July 1996, Turkish combat aircraft bombarded the regions of Banah and Kula Raqu to a depth of eight kilometres inside Iraqi territory, causing damage to the property of many citizens and wounding one person.

4. On 23 and 25 July 1996, Turkish combat aircraft bombarded five residential camps in the regions of Khakurk, Busi and Daulat Raqqah inside Iraqi territory.

5. On 23 July 1996, Turkish combat aircraft bombarded the regions of Busi, Daulat Raqqah, Shirawan Mazin and Hayr inside Iraqi territory.

6. On 23 July 1996, Turkish military forces comprising two regiments of storm troopers entered and searched the regions of Shirawan Mazin and Hayr. When they withdrew on 24 July 1996, 15 people from the area had been killed and 20 others injured.

7. On 25 July 1996, Turkish artillery bombarded the region of Nawdasht inside Iraqi territory, causing the death of two persons from the area and injuring eight others.

8. On 28 July 1996, Turkish combat aircraft bombarded the refugee camp in Atrush and several villages in northern Iraq.

9. On 8 August 1996, Turkish artillery bombarded the environs of Mizwari in the subdistrict of Mirga Sur inside Iraqi territory. The bombardment lasted several hours.

10. On 11 August 1996, Turkish combat aircraft bombarded the village of Hawrah inside Iraqi territory, causing the death of nine persons, four of whom were women.

In transmitting to you the details of the Turkish violations given above, the Government of Iraq requests the holding of an immediate and exhaustive investigation into the above-mentioned events, since the repeated bombardments of Iraqi towns and villages by Turkish forces, and their incursions into Iraqi territory, are a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and of the integrity of its territory and airspace.

The Government of Iraq has warned its neighbour Turkey on many previous occasions of the consequences of perpetuating the irregular situation in northern Iraq. The continued stationing of the forces of the so-called "Operation Poised Hammer" on Turkish territory on various pretexts is merely intended to conceal aggressive operations against the Republic of Iraq and intervention in its internal affairs.

While reserving its right to seek compensation for the damage resulting from these Turkish violations and incursions into Iraqi territory and airspace, the Government of the Republic of Iraq renews its appeal to the Government of Turkey to reconsider its policies regarding the situation in northern Iraq and to initiate cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, guided by the principle of good neighbourliness and mutual respect for sovereignty.

The Republic of Iraq urges the United Nations to shoulder the responsibilities delegated to it under the Charter of the United Nations and to prevent any repetition of the threats and hostilities to which my country is continually exposed.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq